----------Categories----------

Repairing

Addressing harms despite limited power to enact structural change.

Can be implemented without challenging the system.

CATEGORY

Transforming

Addressing harms without relying on ethically compromised systems.

Requires strategies that subvert or deconstruct standard AI practices.

CATEGORY

Flourishing

Addressing personal and cultural expression, sustainment, and thriving.

Reorients damage-centered design practices.

CATEGORY

----------Principles----------

Privacy

Ensuring participant data is not shared beyond those to whom participants directly consented.

PRINCIPLE

Transparency

Providing clear documentation of a project's motivation, technical details, audience, funding, contributors, evolution, and so on.

PRINCIPLE

Is AI Still Necessary Here?

OFF RAMP

Collectivity

Developing non-hierarchical partnerships with historically marginalized communities.

PRINCIPLE

Accessibility

Making the project available to people with varying abilities, languages, dialects, and internet connectivity.

PRINCIPLE

Representation

Increasing the inclusion of historically omitted communities, cultures, items, or concepts in training datasets.

PRINCIPLE



Consentful

Receiving permission that is freely given, reversible, informed, enthusiastic, and specific.

PRINCIPLE



Refusal

Rejecting to share one's data with compromised entities and/or refraining from building on dirty data and systems.

PRINCIPLE



Critical Speculation

Using speculative practice and digital tools to supplement historical gaps and imagine new futures.

PRINCIPLE



Could AI Be Swapped for An Old-School Machine Learning Technique?

OFF RAMP



Redistributing Power

Enabling historically subjugated communities to critically engage with technology and shape its future development.

PRINCIPLE



Operating in Parallel

Using ethically compromised systems and resources while simultaneously subverting and dismantling them

PRINCIPLE



Sustainability

Minimizing environmental impact and promoting long-term ecological balance.

PRINCIPLE



Cultural Attunement

Centering historical and cultural influences that are expressly valued by the represented community.

PRINCIPLE



Interiority

Tending to the internal reservoir of thoughts, feelings, desires, joys, and ambitions of individuals.

PRINCIPLE

Reciprocity

Ensuring the mutual exchange of benefits between impacted communities and practitioners.

PRINCIPLE

How Might the Use of AI Negatively Impact Your Relationship With Impacted Communities?

OFF RAMP

Aesthetics

Designing a visual and expressive style that directly speaks to the represented people, culture, and political message.

PRINCIPLE

Strategies

STRATEGY

Representation

Develop a dataset full of overlooked cultural artifacts, people, or ideas.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Representation

Use AI and other design tools to depict artifacts, people, or ideas from a historically excluded community.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Consentful

Obtain permission from a person or estate to build a dataset based on their work.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Consentful

Develop mechanisms for participants to request access to, rectification of, and erasure of their personal data.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Privacy

Temporarily store personal data solely for the duration of the project interaction.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Privacy

Maintain audit logging and application-level monitoring to prevent unauthorized access or data leakage.

Example Projects

How Might the Use of AI Negatively Impact Your Relationship With Impacted Communities?

OFF RAMP

STRATEGY

Collectivity

Host workshops or other gatherings for communities to learn more about the project, contribute their expertise, and get involved.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Collectivity

Develop partnerships with organizations and individuals who belong to the represented and impacted communities.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Accessibility

Crowdsource a dataset contributed by differently abled people.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Accessibility

Seek out `hard-to-reach' populations by developing both mobile and desktop interfaces and systems that function in regions with low connectivity.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Transparency

Use images, video, and other multimedia to document the project throughout the process.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Transparency

Disclose the types of AI systems used and at what stage of the design process.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Redistributing Power

Release the project as open access, with documentation in accessible language, to enable people to contribute to or build on the work.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Redistributing Power

Connect communities to external people and resources for additional support.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Sustainability

Use discarded GPUs to develop decentralized micro-data centers

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Sustainability

Investigate plant-based methods for storing data

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Refusal

Create novel data (images, text, videos, etc.) to populate the dataset.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Refusal

Develop a novel AI platform with liberatory principles.

Example Projects

Is AI Still Necessary Here?

OFF RAMP

STRATEGY

Operating in Parallel

Misappropriate technology historically used for harm toward justice.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Operating in Parallel

Subvert a flawed system through liberatory coalition building and action

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Critical Speculation

Use AI to imagine sociocultural materials that have been forgotten, erased, or neglected.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Critical Speculation

Use historical, cultural knowledge to speculate on how that knowledge would influence and interact with contemporary practices.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Cultural Attunement

Study and partake in represented cultural traditions before reflecting them in a system.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Cultural Attunement

Center on an issue particularly urgent for the impacted community.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Interiority

Use 3D scanning or animation technology to depict personal gestures and movements.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Interiority

Record oral histories that capture moments when a person becomes comfortable or pauses between thoughts.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Reciprocity

Offer a workshop or resources focused on meditation, care, and liberation from oppressive systems.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Reciprocity

Financially compensate contributors.

Example Projects

Could AI Be Swapped for An Old-School Machine Learning Technique?

OFF RAMP

STRATEGY

Aesthetics

Design a tool in alignment with a visual style familiar to the represented community.

Example Projects

STRATEGY

Aesthetics

Develop or produce data that follows a specific cultural visual tradition.

Example Projects

----------Nuance----------

NUANCE

Representation

- Increased representation inside systems meant to destroy and dominate will never lead to liberation
- Accumulating increased information on communities with a history of being hyper-surveilled and abused often causes more undue harm
- Representation must accompany other liberatory principles

NUANCE

Consentful

- When designing consentful technology, place the heaviest burden on the tool's creator, not the user.
- Person A's consent to share their data may also force the sharing of information about Person B, who did not consent.
- When Group A consents to share their data, Group B may face adverse consequences because they are now subject to the technology built with it.
- Reversibility may conflict with research reproducibility.

NUANCE

Privacy

- AI can parse aggregate data, making inferences about a person beyond what is explicit in the data.
- People with rare disabilities face even greater privacy risks when their data is used in AI systems, and standard privacy-preserving techniques are ineffective against re-identification.

Could AI Be Swapped for An Old-School Machine Learning Technique?

OFF RAMP

NUANCE

Collectivity

- Requires additional time and resources to support the relationship and appropriately compensate partners for their contributions.
- Necessitates rethinking the design process and dedicating additional time and effort to engender trust and solidarity with collaborators.
- See power and collaboration as fluid and constantly under renegotiation.

NUANCE

Transparency

- Documentation must be an anticipated step in the design process so as not to be overlooked, rushed, or truncated at the very end.
- Automated documentation runs counter to the objective of having practitioners reflect on their process.
- Document more than the barest technical details, being sure to consider and note the principles and worldviews impacting the work.

NUANCE

Accessibility

- A project can be publicly available yet inaccessible to people with different abilities and connectivity.
- Accessibility should influence every step of the design process, not just the end.
- Rather than treating accessibility as an accessible/inaccessible binary, consider it a dynamic scale based on who the target audience is and the conditions under which features are accessible.

NUANCE

Redistributing Power

- Power dynamics are ever-evolving in collaborative projects.
- Broader sociotechnical contexts, cultural differences, and interpersonal relationships influence power.
- Uncovering and renegotiating power dynamics is a continuous part of the process.

NUANCE

Sustainability

- Developing truly sustainable AI practices means interrogating and destroying the capitalistic, colonialist ideologies undergirding these systems.
- Sustainability includes offsetting how a project feeds into the continuous extraction of environmental resources.
- Systemically marginalized people's labor should also be offset in sustainable practice.

NUANCE

Refusal

- Refusal undoubtedly shakes up the design process and slows things down, but that is necessary.
- Refute a colonial mindset that all knowledge must be conquered.
- See refusal as a generative act that allows for the renegotiation of underlying assumptions and conditions of inquiry.

How Might the Use of AI Negatively Impact Your Relationship With Impacted Communities?

OFF RAMP

NUANCE

Operating in Parallel

- Most needed when entirely liberatory pathways are severely limited and difficult to locate.
- Subversive work must not be confused with passive complacency within ethically compromised systems.
- When done right, operating in parallel becomes less and less necessary with each justice-based project and discovery.

NUANCE

Critical Speculation

- Question what constitutes historical accuracy, fact, and significance.
- Ground the work in rigorous, intentional, and care-driven engagement with the history and culture of those historically harmed by oppressive systems.
- This notably differs from the destructive fictions that are nonsensical AI hallucinations or malicious misrepresentations of the past meant to further authoritarian regimes.
- How might model bias impact this?

NUANCE

Cultural Attunement

- Cultural attunement moves away from universality in design, embracing the specificity that comes from designing for a particular group, time, location, and use.

NUANCE

Interiority

- A person's or culture's interiority can be difficult to depict.
- Inner worlds are personal, sensitive, and sometimes not even understood by the person to whom they belong, let alone by outside entities.
- The sharing of one's inner world must be predicated on a foundation of trust and care.

Is AI Still Necessary Here?

OFF RAMP

NUANCE

Reciprocity

- Framing collective relationships as transactional reinforces neocolonial logics of knowledge extraction and exploitation.
- Practitioners should be honest about how they may unevenly benefit from the partnership.
- All collaborators should discuss what long-term reciprocity should look like.

NUANCE

Aesthetics

- There is no single monolithic perspective that can encompass all members of the same race, ethnic group, or sexuality.
- Remain open to the many aesthetic possibilities that may better suit a specific project and the represented communities.